

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CVIS, CGEN, GE, WB, US

SUBJECT: GDR VISA POLICY ON AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS

REF: BERLIN 6182

1. WHILE NOT QUESTIONING GDR ASSURANCES OF RECIPROCITY
IN ISSUANCE OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS, DEPARTMENT IS
NOT INCLINED AT THIS TIME TO GRANT SIMILAR TREATMENT TO
GDR JOURNALISTS STATIONED IN US. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON
FOLLOWING POINTS IN EXPLAINING OUR POSITION TO MFA:

(A) US SUPPORTS STRONGLY PRINCIPLE OF MULTIPLE ENTRY
VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS WHICH, AS GDR IS AWARE, IS AN
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IMPORTANT PROVISION OF CSCE TEXT ON WORKING CONDITIONS

FOR JOURNALISTS. HOWEVER, EVEN MORE BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES IS ABILITY OF NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCREDIT CORRESPONDENTS TO HOST COUNTRY. GDR UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCREDIT US CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN WEST BERLIN OR BONN IS A MAJOR HINDRANCE TO ABILITY OF US NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO COVER EVENTS IN GDR.

(B) DESPITE LACK OF GDR COOPERATION ON THIS POINT OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO US, WE HAVE BEEN WILLING TO ACCREDIT GDR JOURNALISTS AND HAVE PUT NO CONDITIONS ON

THE IDENTITY OR ORIGIN OF JOURNALISTS SENT BY GDR.

(C) WHEN APPROPRIATE, WE HAVE ALSO AGREED TO FACILITATE THEIR ACTIVITIES. TWO RECENT EXAMPLES WERE OUR DECISION TO EXTEND VISAS OF DEPARTING UN CORRESPONDENTS (MR. AND MRS. WURDAK) TO ALLOW THEM TO COVER FALL UNGA, AND AGREEMENT TO ALLOW WASHINGTON-BASED RADIO/TV CORRESPONDENT (KAWUBLER) TO HAVE TECHNICAL STAFF RESIDENT IN US.

(D) EVEN WITH SUCH US COOPERATION, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS ON THE BASIC QUESTION OF THE RIGHT OF US NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO DETERMINE WHOM THEY WISH TO ACCREDIT TO THE GDR. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON THIS POINT, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER OUR POSITION ON MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS.

2. FYI: GDR PRESS ATTACHE (PROTSCH) HAS TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT GDR IS ATTEMPTING TOPERSUADE ONE OR MORE US NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCREDIT JOURNALS RESIDENT IN THE UNITED STATES TO EAST BERLIN IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BASIS FOR RECIPROCITY. AS YET THERE HAVE BEEN NO TAKERS. US ORGANIZATIONS STILL APPEAR MORE INTERESTED IN EXPANDING TERRITORY OF THEIR BONN AND WEST BERLIN CORRESPONDENTS THAN IN OBTAINING WHAT WOULD AMOUNT TO PRO FORMA ACCREDITATION IN THE GDR. HOWEVER, IF SUCH A COMPROMISE COULD BE WORKED OUT TO SATISFACTION OF US NEWS ORGANIZATIONS, WE WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE WILLING TO RECONSIDER QUESTION OF MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR GDR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORRESPONDENTS IN US. END FYI. KISSINGER

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